

House
1527-1529 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington (Georgetown)
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-108

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
1730 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia

Double HOUSEHABS
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Location: 1527-1529 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. In 1877 the address was
151 High Street and in 1890 the addressee was
1527-1529 32nd Street

Present Owner: 1527 - Neal Lynch
1529 - Genevieve Hendricks

Present Occupant: 1527 - Neal Lynch
1529 - Genevieve Hendricks

Present Use: 1527 - Interior decorator's office and dwelling
1529 - Interior decorator's office and dwelling

Statement of Significance: This double building still retains its early gabled roof with dormers and is typical of Georgetown architecture of the early 19th century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The following information is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which this structure was built. The site is in Square 1271 and part of lot 18 in the Beatty and Hawkins Addition to Georgetown. This information relates to 1529 Wisconsin Avenue. The references are all to the Recorder of Deeds, District of Columbia.

1805 Deed December 30, 1804, recorded February 22, 1805
in Liber M folio 44

John Davidson

To

James M. Beatty

Charles A. Beatty

Thomas J. Beatty

1805 Deed August 12, 1805, recorded August 24, 1805
in Liber N folio 148

Thomas J. Beatty

To

Charles A. Beatty

1806 Deed February 7, 1806, recorded February 8, 1806
in Liber O folio 278 for one-half of Lot 18
Charles A. Beatty et ux

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John M. Beetty et ux
To
Henry Upperman, Jr.

1809 Deed August 10, 1809, recorded November 28, 1809
in Liber X folio 234 for one-half of lot 18
Charles A. Beatty et ux
John M. Beatty et ux
To
Elisha W. Williams

1810 Deed September 30, 1809, recorded March 26, 1810
in Liber Y folio 517
Elisha W. Williams
To
Washington Bowie

1810 Deed October 10, 1809, recorded March 26, 1810
in Liber Y folio 102
Henry Upperman, Jr. et ux
To
Washington Bowie

1819 Deed May 26, 1819, recorded May 28, 1819
in Liber Y folio 100
Elisha W. Williams
To
Washington Bowie

1827 Deed July 14, 1827, recorded July 21, 1827
in Liber WB 18 folio 518
George M. Magruder, Jr.
To
Walter D. Addison

1837 Deed May 23, 1837, recorded August 7, 1837
in Liber WB 66 folio 43
Walter D. Addison
To
George A. Bohrer

1837 Deed June 20, 1837, recorded June 21, 1837
in Liber WB 63 folio 322
Walter D. Addison et ux Rebecca C.
To
Williem M. Addison
Thomas H. Hanson

1837 Deed July 26, 1837, recorded September 16, 1837
in Liber WB 63 folio 462
Williem M. Addison
Thomas H. Hanson

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To
Jesse Erskine Dow
Marimus Willett

- 1840 Deed June 1, 1838, recorded July 31, 1840
in Liber WB 85 folio 114
Jesse E. Dow et ux Elizabeth
To
Marimus Willett
- 1847 Deed May 28, 1847, recorded June 7, 1847
in Liber WB 135 folio 145
Henry Upperman heirs
To
William Radin
- 1847 Deed May 8, 1847, recorded June 7, 1847
in Liber WB 135 folio 153
William Radin
To
John Davidson
- 1869 Will of Marimus Willett to wife Sarah Willett
- 1880 Will of Sarah Willett to nephew Dr. A. B. Shekell
- 1883 Deed May 1, 1883, recorded May 8, 1883
in Liber 1042 folio 48
William Upperman et ux et al
To
Amenda Dowling
- 1912 Decree May 17, 1912, which declared Abraham B.
Skekell's title to the property complete and perfect
against the unknown heirs, alienees and devisees of
Washington Bowie and Walter D. Addison and the
defects perpetually enjoined.
(Case numbers: 12-5-467; 3517-400 and Eq. Ca. 30821)
- 1925 Will of Abraham B. Skekell dated October 31, 1925
(Admrs. #33922 dated December 21, 1925)
- 1927 Deed November 23, 1927, recorded December 20, 1927
in Liber 6039 folio 112
Anna M. Beckett
executrix under the will of
A. B. Skekell, deceased
To
Thomas J. Stanton by sale
2. Date of erection: Before 1837. Deed in trust dated June 20,
1837 and recorded June 21, 1837 from Walter D. Addison et ux
Rebecca C. to William M. Addison and Thomas H. Hanson conveys

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"a two story brick dwelling."

3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known.
5. Notes on alterations: 1529 is virtually unaltered except for minor wall repairs, but 1527 has a modern shop window, an altered entrance, and a heavy surfacing of stucco.
6. Important old views: None.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

1527: Washington directories provide the following tenant information:

1914-1919 vacant
1920-1922 George Pillinger
1923-1924 Matthew C. Colton
1925 Fred W. Olsen
1926 vacant
1927-1928 Milton E. Hall
1929-1930 vacant
1931-1932 William W. McDonough
1933 vacant
1934-1936 George H. Kernodle; antiques
1937-1965 Mrs. Jean M. Lynch, interior decorator

1529: Washington directories provide the following tenant information:

1867-1926 Abraham B. Shekell, physician
1927-1930 vacant
1931-1943 Henry B. Robinson, antiques
1944-1966 Ganavieve Hendricks, interior decorator

Dr. Shekell was a prominent doctor in Georgetown for 59 years.

Prepared by Dr. James Philip Noffsinger
Architect
National Park Service
August 15, 1966

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: 1527-1529 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., is a two-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, dormered double building of residential type with arched passageway at

grade between the two three-bayed units. 1527 has been stuccoed and altered; 1529 has virtually unchanged facade. Both retain typical late-eighteenth-early-nineteenth-century mass and details.

2. Condition of fabric: Good; stucco applied to 1527 is in need of repair. Much of north elevation of 1529 has been stuccoed.

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B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 1527: 24'-10" (three bays) x approximately 65' (including ell), two-and-one-half stories in height; 1529: 24'-11" (three bays) x approximately 65' (including ell), two-and-one-half stories in height.
2. Foundations: 1527: foundations have been stuccoed, are probably of brick. 1529: brick to grade.
3. Wall construction: 1527: Stuccoed brick is incised to simulate ashlar construction. 1529: Red Flemish bond construction with repaired areas of common bond. Stone lintel below south street window indicates presence of earlier below-grade opening, now infilled with perforated brick. North elevation is of common bond with headers every six courses; lower two-thirds of wall has been stuccoed. Three diagonal courses parallel ridge line: one of header rowlocks over two courses of stretchers. Brick in central passageway is common bond with header courses occurring at irregular intervals.
4. Chimneys: 1527: Roof abuts chimney at 1523 Wisconsin Avenue. 8" square brick chimney on northeast corner of ell has two-course corbeled brick cap. 1529: Brick chimney on west gable measures approximately 1'-8" x 2'-8" with 9" cap of beveled cement. Brick chimney on east gable, apparently not dating from original construction of building, measures approximately 1'-8" x 3'-8" with 12" cap of beveled cement; galvanized metal stack extends above cap. Third brick chimney measuring approximately 2'-0" x 3'-8" rises above ell.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: 1527: Hall doorway is 4'-3" wide, has leaded glass transom above six-paneled wooden door. Door and transom appear to be antique, probably from another building, as casing is new. Shop doorway is modern, adjoins shop window within aperture 15'-7" wide.

1529: Doorway is 4'-0" wide. Six-paneled wooden door and single-paned rectangular transom are set within paneled reveals.

Passageway between 1527 and 1529 has semicircular brick arch, is 3'-1" wide. Arch has wooden grille above lintel over vertical plank door. A door to 1527 opens from passageway, which has stone floor, beaded match-board ceiling.

- b. Windows and shutters: 1527: Cellar window blocked up. Multipaned shop window is modern. Six-over-six-light double-hung wooden sash, stone lintels and sills on second story. Splayed, voussoir-and-double-keystones-patterned lintels exposed behind plane of stucco. No shutters.

1529: Six-over-six-light double-hung wooden sash; voussoir-and-double-keystone-patterned splayed stone lintels and stone sills. Casement windows in ell. Lower shutters have two solid wooden panels; upper shutters louvered below square solid panels. Wrought-iron S-curved shutter stops.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Roof is gabled, ridge running north-south; tin covering. Roofs of both ells slope from north to south.
- b. Framing: Unknown.
- c. Cornice, eaves: 1527: Tin dentiled cornice incorporates gutter. 1529: Brick dentiled cornices of very shallow projection behind gutter at eaves. Gutter and downspout may be originals.
- d. Dormers: 1527: One front dormer of gabled pair survives; has wooden facing, metal-sheathed sides, tin roof, six-over-six-light double-hung wooden sash. Eaves moldings return but discontinue at base of pediment. Similar dormer off-center on east slope cannot be seen clearly for recording.

1529: Two gabled dormers are identical with one at 1527 except that faces as well as sides are metal-sheathed. Molding returns are retained. Large modern metal dormer on east slope below a metal vent.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

Interiors have been altered into modern commercial and living areas, were not recorded. Single-run wooden stairways lead to upper floors.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: 1527-1529 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., faces west by southwest on a sloping site between P and Q Streets near the northern edge of the Wisconsin Avenue retail district. A passageway through the building provides the only street access to unusually quiet private gardens at the rear of the lot.
2. Enclosures: The gardens are enclosed by fences of brick and wood.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks: 1527-29 fronts on a concrete public sidewalk to the west. Brick rear garden walks are of herringbone pattern.
5. Landscaping: Behind both 1527 and 1529 are enclosed private gardens; that of 1527 is more formal than that of 1529. Exceptional in the garden of 1529 is a retaining wall, which runs north-south, about halfway between the all and the east property line: its coping is composed of miniature adjoining Ionic capitals.

Prepared by Thomas R. Martinson
Student Assistant Architect
National Park Service
August 10, 1966